

Electronic Based Deer and Turkey Checking System FAQ's 2005

Why is DNR moving to an electronic based deer and turkey checking system?

- Current deer and turkey harvest levels have outgrown DNR's current system of maintaining check stations in most parts of the state for checking deer and turkeys. Check stations were started in the 1930s when less than 100 deer were annually checked statewide. DNR now annually checks over 85,000 deer and turkeys!
- DNR has received an increasing number of complaints every year from hunters who harvest a deer at dusk during bow and early muzzleloader season and can't find a check station within a reasonable distance that is open.
- DNR has a hard time recruiting stations in urban/suburban counties, which causes an inconvenience to hunters who harvest a deer or turkey that is far from a station.
- States with telephone check-in feel their reporting rates increase and they get more accurate and more reliable data, which is valuable for making timely and correct management decisions.
- In Maryland, the cost for a telephone check-in system would be significantly less than the current check station system.

How will I check my deer or turkey if the current checking station system is disbanded?

- Successful hunters will be required to report their kill by one of two methods. Hunters will have the option of 1) calling toll free 1-888-800-0121 or 2) accessing the Internet at <http://www.gamecheck.dnr.state.md.us> and registering their kill on DNR's big game check site.

Will DNR still collect biological data for managing deer and turkeys?

- DNR biologists and NRP will have daily, real-time access to the check-in data in a more convenient format than the current system offers.
- Biological data previously collected at check stations will be collected at processors and taxidermists, or reported directly at the time the kill is registered.

What will happen to current check stations?

- Current check stations that wish to remain unofficial weigh stations will be allowed to use the state-purchased scales and turkey measuring devices. In addition, we will promote those stations that wish to participate in DNR's new Junior Hunter Certificate Program.